

***Shake, Rattle, and Roll***

Reviewed by Steven J. Smith

Theatre Critic

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This show is more than a foot-stomping, table-pounding, all-around rollicking good time. It's a history lesson that traces the evolution of Rock & Roll from its roots in country, rhythm and blues, and traditional folk music — and performers Eric Scott Anthony, Jonathan Brown, Dominick Cicco, and Casey Gensler (with dependable backbeat provided by drummer Tony Bruno) deliver the songs so seamlessly, effortlessly, and joyously that you simply can't help but get swept up in their talent and execution as they honor such rock legends as Buddy Holly, Carl Perkins, Ritchie Valens and many more.

I must confess my favorite musician was Mr. Anthony, particularly in his phenomenal takes on "Maybellene," "Barbara Allen," and "American Pie." But it was hard to ignore Mr. Brown's inspired piano pounding on "Good Golly Miss Molly," Mr. Cicco's entertaining "Big Bopper's Wedding," and Mr. Gensler's friendly and engaging "It's So Easy." It was also amazing to watch these gifted musicians and singers trade off instruments — from guitar to bass, to mandolin, to banjo, to kazoo to piano — and play them all equally well. Spiritedly directed by Dennis Courtney, "Shake, Rattle, and Roll" is a must-see for anyone who loves Rock & Roll and wants to know how it came to be.

"Shake, Rattle, and Roll" plays at FST's Goldstein Cabaret through March 25. For more info or to book tickets log on to [www.FloridaStudioTheatre.org](http://www.FloridaStudioTheatre.org) or call 941-366-9000.